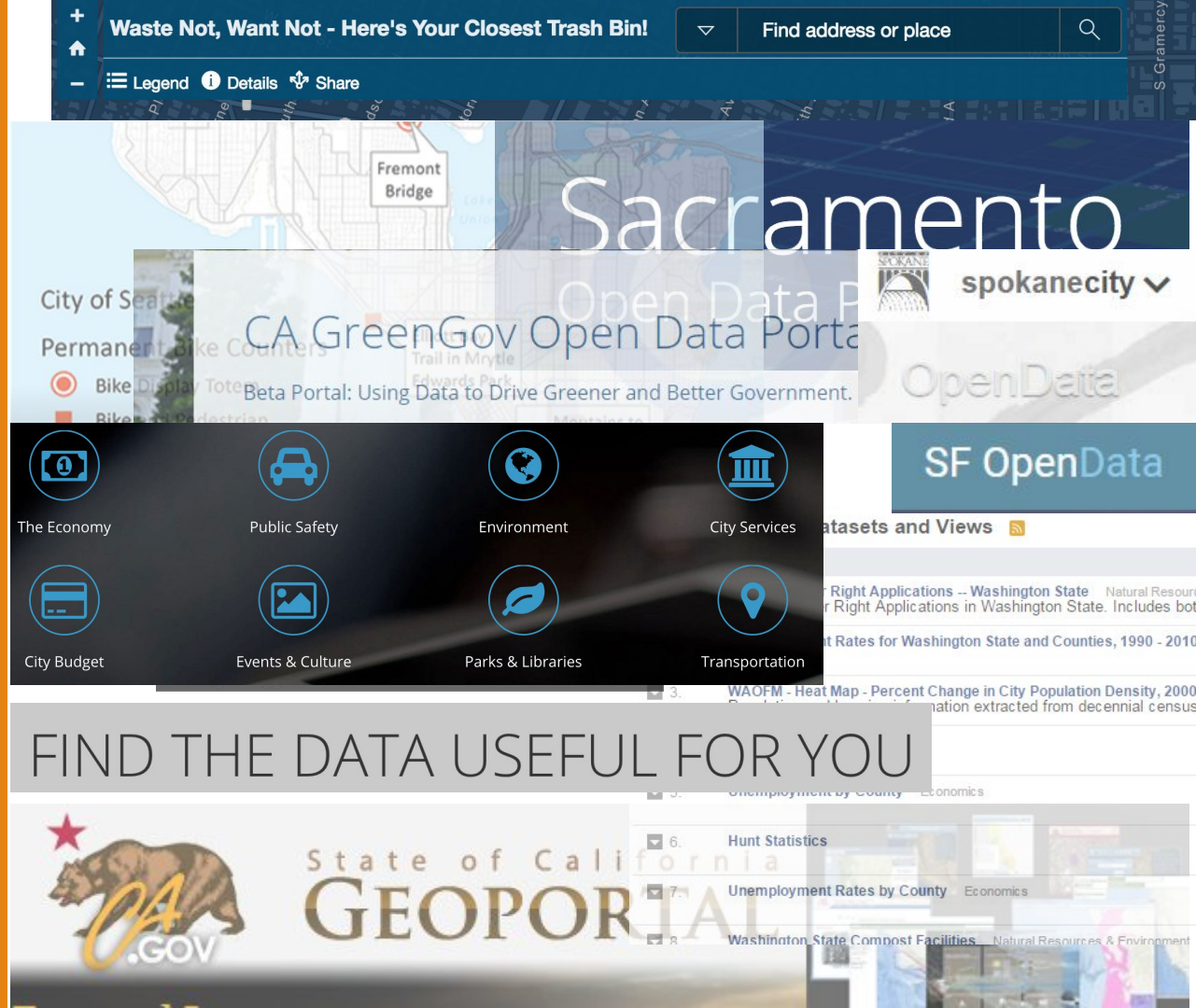


# Civic Data & Public Libraries

Exploring Data,  
Solving Problems  
Giving Feedback

March 23, 2018

Anne Neville  
Director, California Research Bureau  
California State Library  
Co-Director, Data Equity for Main Street  
anne.neville@library.ca.gov



The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored image of the entrance to the Fremont Branch of the Seattle Public Library. The entrance features a large, ornate archway with a decorative pediment above it. The pediment contains the text "FREMONT BRANCH SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY" and a circular seal. The archway is flanked by two columns. The overall tone is light and airy, with the text overlaid in a bold, teal color.

FREMONT BRANCH  
SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

# 48% of American Adults Go to the Library

Source: Survey conducted March 7-April 4, 2016.  
"Libraries 2016"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

*% of U.S. adults ages 16 and older who say libraries contribute 'a lot' or 'somewhat' to their communities by...*

**Creating educational opportunities for people of all ages**



**Providing a trusted place for people to learn about new technologies**



**Helping people decide what information they can trust**



**Serving as a gathering place for addressing challenges in their local community**



Source: Survey conducted March 7-April 4, 2016.  
"Libraries 2016"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



data is available



you can access data



you can leverage data to create change

“How might we make  
data work for  
individuals and communities?”

# Open Data Use Cases in the Community

---

- A parent searching for quality daycare
- A sister who wants to convince city council to support a new park
- A neighbor writing a grant for a school
- A small business owner whose product would benefit from using transportation data
- A community journalist telling a story about their neighborhood



# The Plan



Librarians and Civic Technologists Create Curricula



Train Librarians



Librarians Train their Communities. Communities find, use and give feedback on open data.



# What did we hope to find out?



Are enough libraries and communities interested in this? Can it scale?



Can libraries become feedback points to make sure that open data reflects all of our communities?



Can interested community members without advanced technical skills still leverage open data?





# What have we done?



Librarians and Civic Technologists Create Curriculum (DONE! 4 1-2hr classes: definitions, uses, basic statistics, charts and graphs, answering your own question)



Libraries that helped create curriculum tested it and we made changes based on feedback



Accepted 26 beta testers, provided two-day in-person training and now they are testing it in their communities.



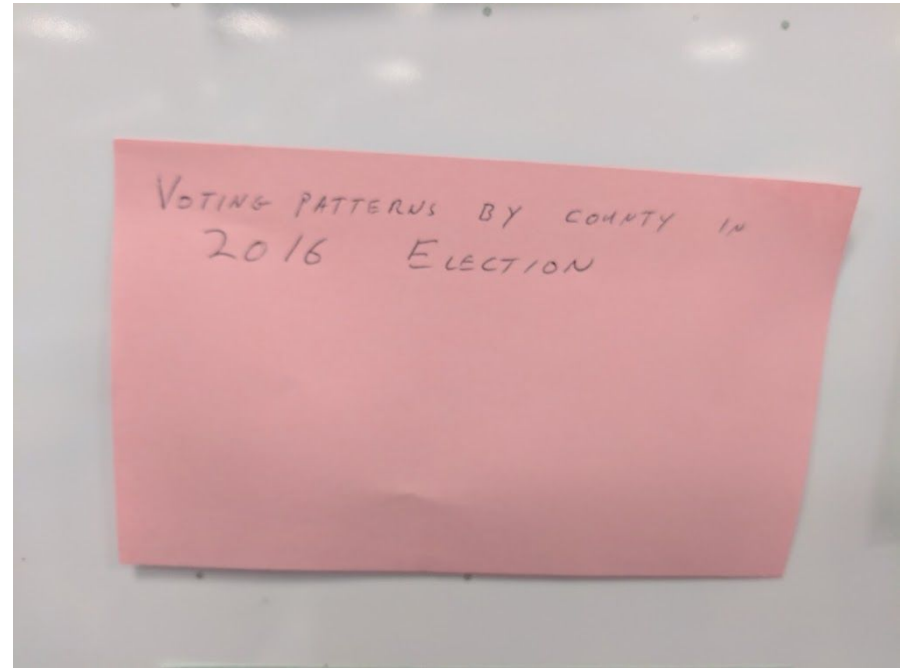
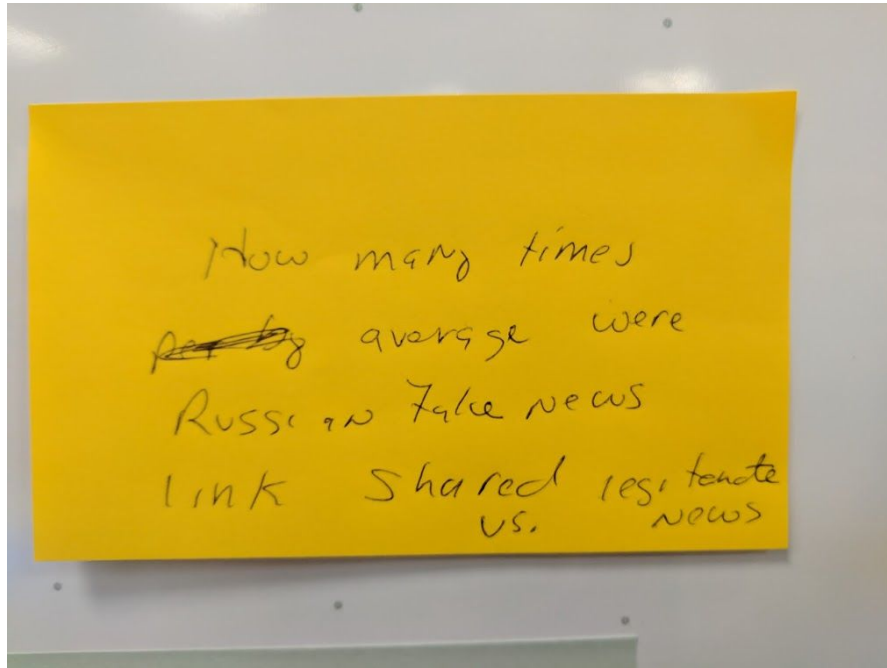
# What are we learning?

---

- Communities are interested
- Librarians want to train not just the community, but also all of their library staff
- University libraries and public libraries are excited. This fits into the “fake news” question.
- Libraries are partnering with their local gov to release data & serve as a resource

# What questions are people asking in Open Data classes?

---



# What questions are people asking in Open Data classes? (cont'd)

---

- Which nursing home in my area should I send my parents to?
- Which cities are dedicated to funding services that are important to me (e.g. schools, library, public transit)?
- What were the voting patterns by county in the 2016 election?
- What is the average price of X product/service globally/locally?
- Where can I find first-time homebuyer data?

# Libraries and Open Data Publishers

---

- We encourage community members and libraries to contact open data publishers (local, state, federal) to give feedback and to ask questions.
  - Our WA partner is the state's open data chief

# Libraries and Open Data Publishers

---

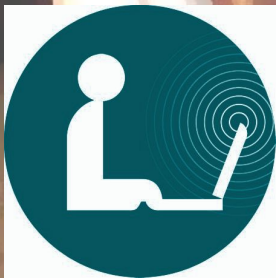
- San Jose: Member of new citywide Data Strategy Team
  - Library IS an information management center that provides training and access to public
  - Help to educate public
  - Knowledge of Privacy
  - Knowledge of how to organize information
  - #metadatanerds
- A New Beta Tester:
  - Library and WA data chief are helping advise city as it begins thinking data strategy



# What's Next ...

---

- We hope you'll hear from some of our beta testers, and later, libraries and community members
- We hope that if you're wondering how useful your data might be, you might think about the library as a place to engage
- We hope that the open data movement will not just result in open data for a few, but will really be open data, open for everyone.



## Contact Us

Anne: [anne.neville@library.ca.gov](mailto:anne.neville@library.ca.gov)

Will: [will.saunders@watech.wa.gov](mailto:will.saunders@watech.wa.gov)